

Tennessee High Schools

GRADUATION RATE ESTIMATES DIFFER DEPENDING ON THE SOURCE

	State-Reported ¹	U.S. Department of Education-Reported ²	Independent Estimate ³
Tennessee Graduation Rates	75.7%	66.1%	72.2%

According to independent estimates, Tennessee ranks **26th** in the nation in graduation rates.⁴

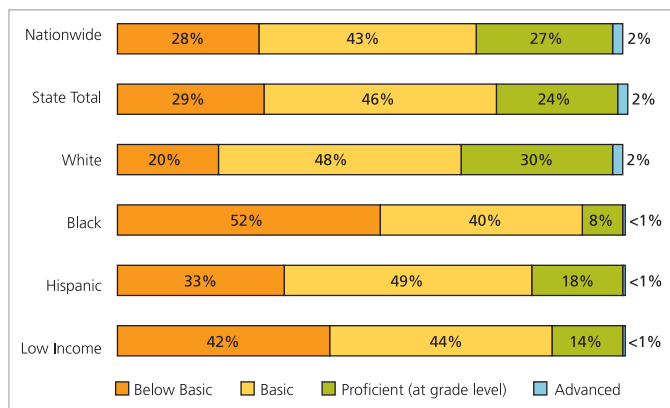
THE HIGH SCHOOL CRISIS IS CONCENTRATED IN THE NATION'S "DROPOUT FACTORIES"

"Dropout factories" are schools where 60% or fewer of the students progress to twelfth grade in four years.

	Number of Federally Reported Regular High Schools ⁵	Number of Dropout Factories ⁶
Tennessee	289	37
Nation	15,409	1,642

THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP REMAINS A CHALLENGE

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Reading Scores for Tennessee Eighth Graders⁷



45% of Tennessee eighth graders are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.⁸

COMPREHENSIVE DATA SYSTEMS ARE NEEDED

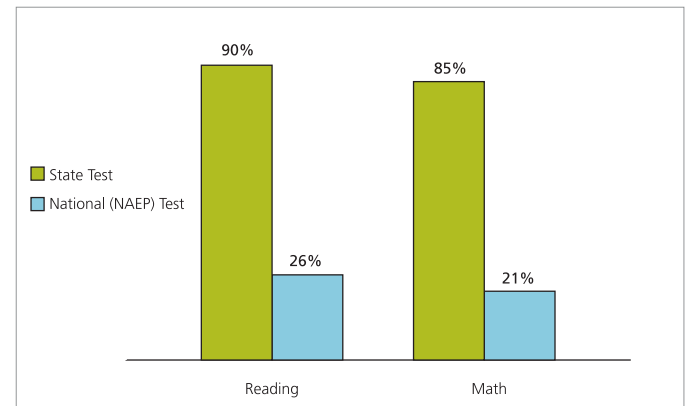
The national Data Quality Campaign recommends ten elements as the start of a robust P-12 longitudinal data system.⁹

	Tennessee
1. The ability to track individual students over time	YES
2. Student-level demographic information	YES
3. The ability to track individual students' test records from year to year to measure academic growth	YES
4. The ability to know which students have not been tested	YES
5. The ability to match teachers to students by classroom and subject	YES
6. Student-level transcript information	NO
7. Information on student performance on college-readiness examinations like the SAT, ACT, and AP	NO
8. Student-level graduation and dropout data	YES
9. The ability to match student records between the K-12 and higher education systems	YES
10. System in place to evaluate data system quality	YES

To date, only four states have achieved all ten elements.

STATE AND FEDERAL PROFICIENCY MEASURES DIFFER

Tennessee Eighth-Grade Proficiency as Measured by Tennessee State and National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Tests¹⁰



The average gap nationally between state- and NAEP-reported **reading** scores is **37** percentage points.

The average gap nationally between state- and NAEP-reported **math** scores is **31** percentage points.

DROPOUTS AND POORLY PREPARED STUDENTS HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY

Approximately **22,000** students did not graduate from Tennessee's high schools in 2007; the lost lifetime earnings in Tennessee for that class of dropouts alone are more than **\$5.7 billion**.¹¹

Tennessee would save more than **\$350.3 million** in health care costs over the lifetimes of each class of dropouts had they earned their diplomas.¹²

If Tennessee's high schools graduated all students ready for college, the state would save almost **\$46.8 million** a year in community college remediation costs and lost earnings.¹³

Tennessee's economy would see a combination of crime-related savings and additional revenue of about **\$183 million** each year if the male high school graduation rate increased by just 5%.¹⁴

ALL STUDENTS NEED ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY TEACHERS¹⁵

93.7% of secondary classes in high-poverty schools in Tennessee are taught by a highly qualified teacher.

97.9% of secondary classes in low-poverty schools in Tennessee are taught by a highly qualified teacher.

1. Tennessee State Board of Education 2007
2. United States Department of Education 2007
3. Editorial Projects in Education Research Center 2007
4. Editorial Projects in Education Research Center 2007
5. National Center for Education Statistics 2007
6. Center for Social Organization of Schools, Johns Hopkins University 2007
7. National Center for Education Statistics 2007
8. National Center for Education Statistics 2007
9. National Center for Education Accountability 2007
10. National Center for Education Statistics 2006; Tennessee State Board of Education 2006
11. Alliance for Excellent Education 2007
12. Alliance for Excellent Education 2006
13. Alliance for Excellent Education 2006
14. Alliance for Excellent Education 2006
15. Consolidated State Performance Reports 2007